MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know the source for the answer that I have been given? Is it the Government or the Chief Engineer or the P. W. D. Division Officer?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The answer is given on behalf of Government.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether, after I sent my interpellation, the Government sent one of their Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries or the Chief Secretary to examine the condition of the bridge?

PRESIDENT: Please keep to the point. You must not ask a question like that.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that the bridge is not safe now?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Public Works Department is of opinion that the bridge is not quite safe for heavy traffic. It is safe for passengers who walk upon it.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that motor lorries and buses with passengers are not allowed to pass over that bridge?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Only empty buses and empty lorries are allowed to pass over the bridge.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know why loaded buses are not allowed to cross the bridge?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Because the P. W. D. is of opinion that the bridge is not quite safe for the traffic of heavy vehicles.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): So am I to understand that the bridge is not quite safe for passengers?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Certainly not; it is perfectly safe for passengers walking along the bridge. It is when the buses are full that they become heavy rendering it unsafe.

Shifting of the public market near Kurumthotathu junction in Pandalam.

41. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to shift the public market near the Kurumthotathu junction, Pandalam, from its present site to any other place;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to register that site in favour of any private individual; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation from the citizens of Pandalam on this subject?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. There is a proposal from the Chief Engineer to shift the market to a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

higher level in view of the heavy cost that might be required to improve the present market and to raise it above mean flood level. The matter is under consideration by the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon.

(*b*) That will arise only after the question of shifting the market has been decided.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The answer to part (*c*) states that Government have received representations from the people of Pandalam in regard to the shifting of the market. May I know the purport of the representation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is stated that the market should not be shifted.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether there was any representation to the effect that the market should be shifted?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware of any such representation from the people.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know for how many days or months in the year this particular site will be under water?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Just for a few days, I believe, during heavy monsoon.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Government have received any representation stating that the people are put to great difficulty on account of the market not being held for a few days every year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): On personal inspection the Land Revenue Commissioner found that the condition of the market was highly deplorable. It is slightly below flood level and hence subject to inundation during floods. The Land Revenue Commissioner found that on the whole the market was in unwholesome condition and so he reported that it would be desirable to shift it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the low level of the ground the main objection?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is one of the reasons for the deplorable condition of the market. The suggestion is to raise the ground of the premises, to construct walls around it and to put up gates.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What was the extent to which the level was recommended to be raised?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Just above the mean flood level.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the difference between the mean flood level and the present level of the ground?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know that. The recommendation is that the ground should be raised one and a half feet above flood level.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the present level of the ground?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know. The ground is below flood level.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has the Chief Engineer estimated the cost of raising the level to the extent recommended by the Land Revenue Commissioner?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I may inform the member that the Dewan Peishkar has subsequently inspected the locality and he has reported that the market should not be shifted especially because the site selected is not sufficiently large. He is of opinion that the market need not be shifted.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Have the Government accepted his recommendation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has just come today.

Delay in the disposal of pokkuvaravu cases in Tovala and Agastisvaram.

42. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that *pokkuvaravu* cases are unnecessarily delayed by Proverthicars in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is reported by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner that 532 *pokkuvaravu* cases were pending with the Tahsildars of Tovala and Agastisvaram at the end of Thulam 1108. Of these 86 cases relate to the year 1107 and the balance to 1108. Stringent orders have been issued for the prompt disposal of these cases.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): In the answer it is stated that 532 *pokkuvaravu* cases were pending with the Tahsildars of Tovala and Agastisvaram at the end of Thulam 1108. May I know why so many as 532 cases are pending?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Each *pokkuvaravu* case has to go through several stages before it is finally disposed of.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that inordinate delay is caused by the Proverthicars?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware of that. There has been no inordinate delay.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that the Proverthicars demand bribes from the parties in all these *pokkuvaravu* cases?

PRESIDENT: Your question has already been answered, Mr. Nadar.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly